

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, CG, US, PINR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON PLOT TRIAL AND CITING OF US
DIPLOMAT IN COURT TESTIMONY

REF: KINSHASA 2255

1. FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR
MARCH 9 AND SUBSEQUENT NOON PRESS BRIEFING CONCERNING
ZAIRE TRIAL OF DISSIDENTS AND CITING OF US DIPLOMAT IN
COURT TESTIMONY:

QUOTE QUESTION: IN THE TESTIMONY OF THE TRIAL OF ACCUSED
ANTI-GOVERNMENT PLOTTERS WHICH BEGAN YESTERDAY AT KINSHASA,
I UNDERSTAND THAT REFERENCE WAS MADE TO THE INVOLVEMENT
OF AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON
THIS?

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ANDWER: YES. I WOULD LIKE TO STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT
NEITHER THE US GOVERNMENT NOR ANY US GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL
HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY WAY IN ANY PLOT OR OTHER
ACTIVITY DIRECTED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRES OR
OFFICIALS OF THAT GOVERNMENT. NO AMERICAN DIPLOMAT HAS
PARTICIPATED AT ANY TIME IN ANY MEETING SUCH AS WAS

DESCRIBED IN THE COURT TESTIMONY.

QUESTION: HAS THE US GOVERNMENT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALLEGATIONS?

ANSWER: YES, WE HAVE CONVEYED OUR ASSURANCES OF NON-INVOLVEMENT TO HIGH LEVELS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS RECENTLY, AND IN RESPONSE THE GOZ HAS TOLD US THAT WE ARE NOT SUSPECT.

QUESTION: BUT I RECALL THAT SIMILAR ACCUSATIONS WERE MADE AGAINST THE US GOVERNMENT IN 1975 AND THAT EVENTUALLY THAT GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE ASKED THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE BE RECALLED. WAS THERE NO BASIS TO THOSE ALLEGATIONS EITHER?

ANSWER: THE ALLEGATIONS MADE WERE UNTRUE THEN AS THEY ARE NOW. AND WE INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE AT THAT TIME, AS IN THIS INSTANCE, THAT THERE IS NO BASIS IN FACT TO SUCH ALLEGATIONS. UNQUOTE.

2. QUESTIONS DID NOT ARISE AT NOON BRIEFING MARCH 9. VANCE

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